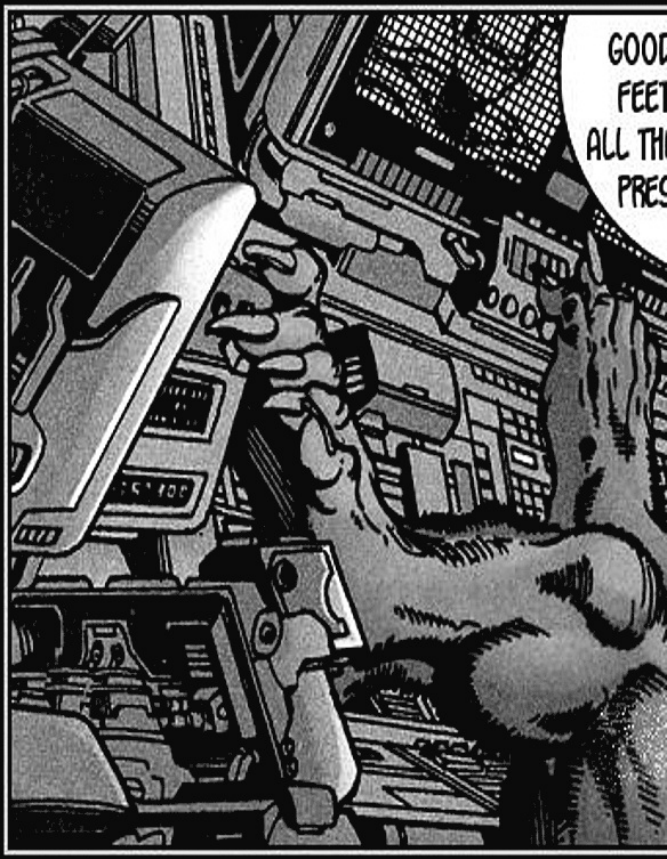


VISIT...

LANZAROTE  
*Caliente*.COM



GOOD  
FEET  
ALL THE  
PRES

THING I CAN USE MY  
AS WELL TO SCAN!  
E FASTER TO PROUDLY  
ENT TO THE WORLD  
AT LARGE:

# EXCALIBUR

## #15

(AN UMPTENTH BEAST  
CHARMING SCAN)



FOR QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS,  
MAIL TO [BEASTCHARMING@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BEASTCHARMING@YAHOO.COM)

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# THE CROSS-TIME CAPER EXCALIBUR



THE OLD PIER--  
BRIGHTON, ENGLAND...

BESTIR  
YOURSELVES,  
YOU LAZY  
LAYABOUTS!



BEEN AWAY SO LONG,  
GATECRASHER--

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# TECHNET

## IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS!

STARRING  
**EXCALIBUR**

"THOUGHT  
WE, FOR-  
GOTTEN  
US YOU  
HAD!"

OUR CLIENT,  
MR. NIGEL  
FROBISHER,  
HAS  
ARRIVED.

IT'S TIME  
TO GO TO  
WORK!

ACTION--  
AT LAST!

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER  
ALAN DAVIS, PENCILER  
PAUL NEARY, INKER  
TOM ORZECOWSKI AND  
MIKE HEISLER, LETTERERS  
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST  
TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR  
TOM DE'ALCO, "THE SECRETARY"  
(WHO, IF ANY OF YOUR FORCE IS  
CAUGHT OR KILLED WILL DISAVOW  
ANY OF YOUR ACTIONS)  
CLAREMONT & DAVIS, CREATORS

GLUMF  
GLORP  
chomp!

G'WAY--  
LATER--  
'M'BUSY!

BIEURPFOH!

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A-HEN!

DON'T MIND THEM, SIR.

A ROUGH-EDGED MOB, TRUE, BUT NONE BETTER IN A SCRAP.

I'M SURE.

MR. FROBISHER HAS PREPARED A BRIEFING HOLOGRAPH.

NOW, GATHER 'ROUND--AND PAY ATTENTION.

Or else!



OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EFFECT THE RESCUE AND SAFE RETURN TO THIS LAND...

OF JAMES BRADDOCK--

...WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE OLDER SIBLING OF OUR OLD FRIEND, BRIAN BRADDOCK...

...MORE FAMILIARLY KNOWN IN THIS VENUE AS **CAPTAIN BRITAIN!**

IF THEY'RE FAMILY...

WHY DON'T HE DO IT?

HE-- AND HIS COMPEERS IN EXCALIBUR-- HAVE DISAPPEARED.

BECAUSE HE ISN'T AVAILABLE, CRETIN.

NOW--THIS IS THE TYRANT WHO'S SENTENCED DEAR JAMIE TO DEATH BY SLOW TORTURE.

...JOSHUA N'DINGI--  
**DOC CROC.**

FIRST DECENT-LOOKING YOBBO I'VE VIDDIED ON THIS ORB.

AND THIS, THE CITADEL WHEREIN DEAR JAMIE'S IMPRISONED.

INCONGRUOUS. APPEARS TO BE NOT EVEN A MARGINALLY FORMIDABLE STRONGHOLD.



Snee!

CERTAINLY NOT FOR US, NUMBERS!

BUT NO DOUBT MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH LOCAL ASSAULT CAPABILITIES.

DEAL WI' THIS, THOU SPAVINED LIZARD!

I'LL TEACH 'EE T' THINK SUCH THOUGHTS O' THUG!

DEAR, DEAR  
TECHNET--

Wugga  
wugga!

--OUR FIRST CLIENT IN OUR NEW  
HOME, AND SEE HOW YOU  
BEHAVE?

IS THIS ANY WAY  
TO ESTABLISH  
A CREDIBLE  
REPUTATION?

WE ALREADY  
HAVE A  
REPUTATION.  
GATECRASHER,  
OUT AMONG  
THE STARS--

--WHERE WE  
BELONG--**GLURG/KOX!**

BUT WE  
DO NOT  
RESIDE  
AMONG THE  
STARS ANY  
LONGER,  
FOOLISH-  
FISTS!

WE ARE  
FORBIDDEN TO  
RETURN THERE--  
WHERE I QUITE  
AGREE, WE DO  
BELONG-- UNTIL  
WE CAPTURE  
PHOENIX AND  
TURN HER  
OVER TO THE  
OMNIVERSAL  
MASTREX.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE  
CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL  
PHOENIX AND  
EXCALIBUR RETURN.

WHICH MEANS  
WE'RE STUCK  
HERE AND MUST  
THEREFORE MAKE  
DO AS BEST WE  
CAN FOR AS LONG  
AS WE MUST--

--DO I MAKE  
MYSELF  
CLEAR?

SPLENOID.

THEN LET'S BE  
ABOUT OUR  
BUSINESS.

NIGEL-DARLING--  
PERHAPS WHILE  
WE WAIT, WISH  
YOU WITH  
CHINA DOLL  
TO PLAY, YES?

NO!

MESS ME  
UP AGAIN,  
LOVEY...

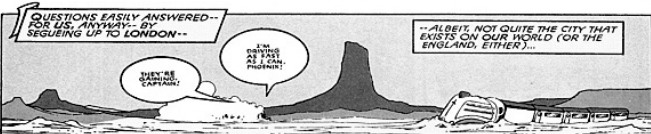
--YOU DON'T  
GET PAID.

RISK ASSESSMENT, MAJOR.  
EXTREME CAUTION ADVISED.

EVALUATION  
QUERY  
SPECULATION--

--CURRENT  
STATUS,  
EXCALIBUR?

TRANSLATION:  
WHAT'S HAPPENED  
TO THEM, WHERE  
HAVE THEY GONE?

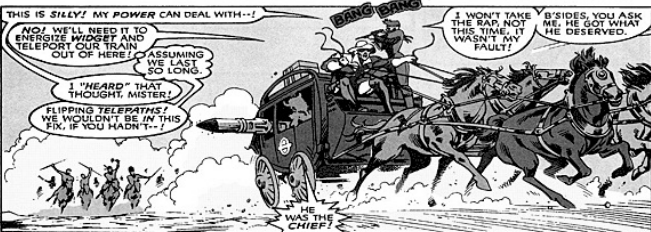


QUESTIONS EASILY ANSWERED--  
FOR US, ANYWAY-- BY  
SEGUEING UP TO LONDON--

--ALBEIT, NOT QUITE THE CITY THAT  
EXISTS ON OUR WORLD (OR THE  
ENGLAND, EITHER)...

THEY'RE  
GAINING,  
CAPTAIN!

I'M  
DOWNING  
THEM  
AS I CAN,  
PHOENIX!



THIS IS SILLY! MY POWER CAN DEAL WITH--!

NO! WE'LL NEED IT TO  
ENERGIZE WIDGET AND  
TELEPORT OUR TRAIN  
OUT OF HERE!  
ASSUMING  
WE LAST  
SO LONG.

I "HEARD" THAT  
THOUGHT, MISTER!  
FLIPPING TELEPATHS!  
WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS  
FIX, IF YOU HADN'T--!

BANG BANG

I WON'T TAKE  
THE RAP, NOT  
THIS TIME, IT  
WASN'T MY  
FAULT!

B'SIDES, YOU ASK  
ME, HE GOT WHAT  
HE DESERVED.

HE  
WAS THE  
CHIEF!



B'GAD, SHE'S  
SHOOTING  
AT US!

WITH A  
GUN! HARDLY  
CRICKET,  
OLD TOP!

FELLER COULD  
GET HISSELF  
PUNCTURED, WOT?



UP THE  
ROYALS!

GUARDS  
FOREVER!

BOWLER-  
HATTED  
BRAVES?

HARDLY SURPRISING,  
SHADOWCAT, CONSIDERING THAT  
IN THIS ALTERNATE  
DIMENSION...

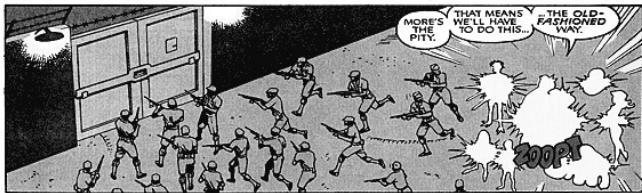
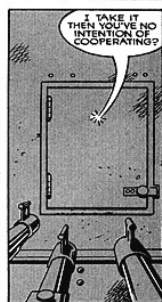
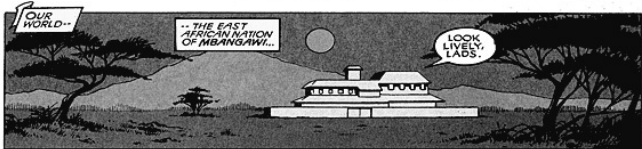


...AMERICA IS THE FONT OF  
CIVILIZATION, AND EUROPE THE  
WILD, UNTAMED FRONTIER.

HUZZA--  
WE'VE  
REACHED  
OUR  
TRAIN!













AFRICA--

--AS IT PROBABLY  
NEVER WAS...

LIZARD--  
EVALUATION!

Mother-- I don't know.  
This shouldn't be real!

But all my  
senses scream  
that it is!

...BUT AS OUR HOPES  
AND DREAMS TELL US  
IT OUGHT TO BE.

A TRUE  
PARADISE!

ALL THE ELEMENTS OF  
NATURE, CO-MINGLING IN  
PERFECT HARMONY.

TRUTH, CHILD,  
I NEVER IMAGINED  
THIS MUDBALL HAD  
SUCH WONDERS  
TO OFFER.

WHAT--  
--RAIDERS!  
MAMMADAN!

SO MUCH FOR  
PARADISE.

BUT THE  
WHOLESALE  
SLAUGHTER...

...IS MERELY  
A MEANS...

...TO AN  
END.





YOU HAD BETTER LEARN, MY DEAR, IF YOU WISH TO HAVE EVEN A HOPE OF SURVIVAL.

THE OMNIVERSAL MASTREX--

--OAL-LUNA SATURNINE!

WHATEVER-- sigh-- SHALL I DO WITH YOU, GATECRASHER?

I GIVE YOU ONE SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT...



...AND YOU FAIL ME.

MASTREX, NO! IT WASN'T MY-- OUR-- FAULT!



SO YOU ALWAYS SAY.

EVERYONE ELSE IS TO BLAME, GA, MERCENARY--THEIR MISTAKES, NEVER YOURS.

CROCODILE?

TO FACE THE TRUTH--AND FALSEHOOD-- IN OTHERS...

...YOU MUST FIRST DO SO IN YOURSELF!



I KNOW WHAT I AM, MONSTER!

AND I'LL NOT BE TORTURED...



...BY THE LIKES OF-- YOU?!

THAT SMOKE IT MUST HAVE INDUCED HALLUCINATIONS!

BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

YOU HAD US AT YOUR MERCY, WHY STAGE THIS DUMB SHOW?



YOU HAD TO LEARN THE TRUTH...

I FEEL HAPPY!

...ABOUT THE MAN YOU'D BEEN SENT TO RESCUE.

YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY TOLD--!



WOULD YOU HAVE BELIEVED?

THERE IS HONOR IN YOU, GATECRASHER-- AND EVEN COURAGE, ALBEIT OF THE MOST RELUCTANT KIND--

--BUT NOT IN THOSE YOU SERVE, YOU HAVE BEEN DECEIVED.

YAP!

Gbbirx!

WHAT AILS YOU, LIZARD? STOP GIBBERING!

!ZGRLKXZ!  
CENTER YOURSELF, THIS INSTANT!



ELSEWHERE...

MISSED THE RAILWAY, 'AVE YOU?

ACTUALLY, WE WERE WONDERING WHERE WE ARE?

ENGLAND, SOUTH DOWNS, EAST SUSSEX, BEACHY HEAD DOWN THERE, EASTBOURNE OVER YONDER.

WHO'S PRIME MINISTER?

MAGGIE.

PRESIDENT?

RONNIE RAY-GUN, INNIT?

NAH, T'OTHER FELLA NOW, BUSH.

PREMIER?

GORBY.

'ALF A NO; MATE, I GOT ONE--

--DO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

WE'RE EXCALIBUR.

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF US?

DON'T BE DAFT, 'COURSE WE 'AVE!

DIS-APPEARED AWHILE BACK.

PULL THE OTHER ONE.

WEREN'T NO "COMRADE CAPTAIN" IN THAT LOT, THOUGH.

THIS IS HOPELESS.

I AM NOT A NUMBER...

IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE OUR EARTH.

BUT WE'VE BEEN WRONG BEFORE.

I'LL SAY!

WE'LL NEED PHOENIX, TO CONFIRM THINGS.

I DUNNO IF THAT'S SUCH A GREAT IDEA, RAY CRASHED PRETTY HARD AFTER THIS LAST JAUNT.

RISE-AN'-SHINE, RAY! YOU'RE NEEDED!

HAVE MERCY, KITTY...

...CAN'T A BODY SLEEP?



ELSEWHERE, STILL...

I FEEL  
HAPPY!

BEHOLD A  
BROKEN MAN.

IN THE PROCESS  
OF PUTTING HIMSELF  
BACK TOGETHER.

A PUPPET WHOSE  
STRINGS HAVE  
JUST BEEN CUT,  
CASTING HIM  
LOOSE UPON THE  
WORLD.

BUT THE WORLD HE PERCEIVES IS  
NOT QUITE THE ONE WE DO.

I FEEL  
HAPPY!

IT'S  
A WORLD  
MADE OF  
STRING.

FILAMENTS OF ENERGY, SO FRAGILE  
THEY SEEM TO SNAP AT THE MEREST  
TOUCH.

ONLY TO THEN,  
MIRACULOUSLY REFORM  
AND RENEW THEMSELVES  
IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

A VERITABLE  
PUZZLEMENT.

SO HE STANDS  
STOCK-STILL...

...TO SORT  
IT OUT.

I FEEL HAPPY.

AND IN TRUTH, HE DOES--  
MORE VITAL AND ALIVE  
THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE  
HE LEFT THESE SHORES  
YEARS AGO.

IT HASN'T YET SUNK  
IN THAT IT'S BECAUSE  
HE'S BACK.

YAP!

YOU GENILE DOLT, HOW  
DARE YOU TELEPORT US  
TO OUR BRIGHTON PIER  
WITHOUT MY  
AUTHORIZATION?!

WHAT COULD HAVE  
POSSESSED YOU?!

TRIP'S BAD ENOUGH--URACK--THE BEST OF  
TIMES--AHON--WHEN WE'RE READY FOR IT!

Gwuh  
gwuh  
gwuh

USELESS, UTTERLY  
USELESS!

OUR CLIENT,  
NIGEL FROBISHER,  
I WANT HIM!

CAN'T, NOT HERE, LEFT  
SOON AFTER YOU.

LUCKY FOR HIM,  
CONSIDERING  
MY MOOD.

NUMBERS--  
INVOKe THE  
MAJOR PENALTY  
CLAUSE OF OUR  
CONTRACT, AND OUR  
"DEAR CHUM," MR.  
FROBISHER, HAD BETTER  
PRAY I DON'T TAKE  
IT OUT OF HIS  
LYING HIDE!

I FEEL HAPPY.

OK--  
SHUT  
UP!

IN THE MEANWHILE--UNTIL THIS  
MESS IS SORTED OUT--WE'LL PUT  
YON LACKWIT UNDER RESTRAINT.

BEWARE, GATECRASHER,  
HE IS MORE THAN HE SEEMS.

Fled...  
because... SO  
AFRAID.

But here  
at home...

...fear  
worse than  
ever!

I'M SURE.

BODYBAG,  
HE'S YOURS.

BODYBAG ENCASES ITS PREY IN A  
TRANSPARENT, NARCOTIC MEMBRANE  
THAT LEAVES THEM THE MOST QUI-  
ESCENT AND HAPPY OF PRISONERS.

OF COURSE,  
JAMIE'S PRETTY  
HAPPY ALREADY.

TO HIM, WHAT'S  
APPROACHING...

...IS A DENSER, MORE STRUCTURED  
NETWORK OF ENERGY STRINGS, A  
LITTLE FRAYED AT THE EDGES.

WITHOUT  
KNOWING  
WHY...

...HE GRABS A  
HANDFUL--

--WHICH, TO HIS  
DELIGHTED  
SURPRISE,  
DOESN'T BREAK--

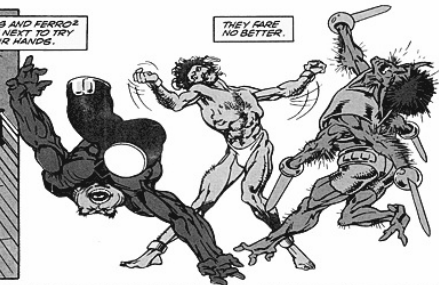
--AND GIVES A  
HEARTY YANK!

**ARGH!**



THUG AND FERROZ  
ARE NEXT TO TRY  
THEIR HANDS.

THEY FARE  
NO BETTER.



THEN, IT'S  
SCATTER-  
BRAIN'S  
TURN.

SHE MEANS TO SIMULTANEOUSLY  
FIRE EVERY SYNAPSE IN JAMIE'S  
BRAIN, SCATTERING HIS CON-  
SCIOUSNESS SO FAR ACROSS  
CREATION...



...IT WILL  
NEVER RE-  
INTEGRATE.

UNFORTUNATELY...



...IT'S  
SHE WHO GETS  
PHYSICALLY  
FRIED.

AND HE, MADE WHOLE.

SORT OF.  
WAAOWW!



WHAT A  
CHARGE!

AND WHAT ODD  
PEOPLE...

...I FIND  
RUNNING  
ABOUT  
ENGLAND!



HE SEEMS MORE  
RATIONAL.

ALL THAT MEANS,  
GATECRASHER...

"...IS THAT HIS POWER IS NOW  
DIRECTED BY INTELLIGENCE..."



"...RATHER THAN BRUTE INSTINCT."



"IF ANYTHING, HE'S JUST BECOME  
EVEN MORE DANGEROUS."



JOYBOY SCANS FOR  
JAMIE'S HEART'S DESIRE.



REASONING, SENSIBLY,  
THAT IF HE'S CONTENT...



...HE'LL NO LONGER  
BE INTERESTED IN  
FIGHTING.

OF COURSE, THAT  
ALL DEPENDS...



AWKK!

...ON PRECISELY  
WHAT MAKES A  
BODY HAPPY.

POOR  
BABY.



I GUESS  
YOU HAVE  
LIMITS.

NOT ME.  
NOT  
ANYMORE.

TO THINK, I'VE  
BEEN MISSING  
THIS MY **WHOLE**  
LIFE!



I'D BE  
SHRIEKING  
WITH RAGE...

...IF I WASN'T  
SO GOSH-DARN  
HAPPY!

AND I'VE  
YOU LOT TO  
THANK FOR  
IT.

ALMOST A  
SHAME IT'S JUST  
A DREAM.

IMAGINE  
IF I COULD DO  
ALL THIS IN  
REALITY?

YOUR TURN,  
NUMBERS!



GULP!

FASCINATING! DOES  
HE STILL PERCEIVE  
HIMSELF...

...AS BEING  
IMPRISONED  
BACK IN  
MBANGAWI?

WINDO-EE, YOU'RE  
A BIG'UN!

REFERENCE  
NULL-MEANING.

LATEST  
FROM TOWO  
FLICKS, EA,  
SON OF  
GODZILLA?

HOPE  
EXPRESSED,  
RATIONAL  
DISCOURSE.

STOP  
BLATHERING,  
YOU NIT!

HIT  
HIM!

BLIMP'S  
RIGHT,  
Y'KNOW.

TALKING'S  
NO GOOD WITH  
SOMEBODY...

...WHO ALWAYS GETS  
HIS OWN WAY.

A CHILD'S DEMAND  
FOR INSTANT, ABSOLUTE  
GRATIFICATION...

...MATCHED TO THE  
POWER TO MAKE IT  
SO--

--FREED OF ALL MORAL RESTRAINT,  
BECAUSE HE BELIEVES NONE OF THIS  
IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING!

ALL AS THE WITCH-  
WOMAN FORETOLD.

I SHOULD HAVE  
HEEDED HER WARNING,  
AND BLAIN HIM AGES  
AGO. THIS IS MY  
FAULT, MY  
RESPONSIBILITY!

BUT...

...IF WE  
LOSE...

...WHAT  
WILL HE  
DO...

...TO  
US?

OH DOC, HEY DOC,  
THE MOMENT I'VE  
BEEN WAITING  
FOR...

...THE MAIN  
EVENT!

WHATEVER THE  
RISK, GATECRASHER--  
WHATEVER THE COST--

--WE HAVE TO  
STOP HIM!



LONDON...

IT WAS A MAJOR, YOU SEE.

THEY THOUGHT, IF IT WAS JUST THE SUPER-BEINGS BASHING EACH OTHER, IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD.

THE FOOLS HAD NO CONCEPT OF THE POWERS THEY WERE UNLEASHING.

AND, AS USUAL, IT WAS THE ORDINARY FOLKS WHO PAID THE PRICE.



ISN'T... ANYTHING LEFT, MEGGAN?

WHAT YOU SEE, PHOENIX, IS WHAT WE'VE GOT.

LONDON FARED BETTER THAN MOST.

NEW YORK'S A CRATER A HUNDRED KILOMETERS ACROSS, THANKS TO DR. DOOM.

HE USED AN ANTI-MATTER BOMB TO ELIMINATE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.

BUT THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.



AND YOU, MEGGAN, ARE THIS WORLD'S CAPTAIN BRITAIN?

AFTER MY BRIAN WAS KILLED, SEEMED THE THING TO DO.



YOU OKAY, RACHEL?

YOU LOOK A LITTLE STRESSED.

SHE LOOKS TOTALLY STRESSED.

SURE, KIDDO. FINE.

JUST TIRED, IS ALL.



YOU TWO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER. ENJOY THE FULL MEASURE OF HAPPINESS...

...THAT MY BRIAN AND I HAD ONLY THE SMALLEST TASTE OF.

YOU COULD COME WITH US, TO ANOTHER WORLD. START AGAIN!



THAT'S VERY KIND, MEG.

BUT MY PLACE IS HERE.

THIS EARTH ISN'T DEAD, YOU SEE, ONLY SLEEPING.

AGES FROM NOW, WHEN ITS WOUNDS ARE FINALLY HEALED, I HAVE TO BE HERE TO HELP IT WAKE...

...AND, FATES WILLING, LIVE AGAIN.





ELSEWHERE...

...ONE FINAL TIME...



# SWORD STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH  
EDITOR  
KELLY CORVINE  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Ex-cellents,

I have a few questions about EXCALIBUR #9, that I hope you guys, in all your omnipotence, can answer for me.

As far as the Lightning Squad's parallel universe is concerned, shouldn't Kurt be in evidence? After all, our Kurt was raised by Gypsies and any history buff knows that the Gypsies were sent to the camps even before the Jews were. Therefore, wouldn't alternate Kurt (#2) have suffered incredible, possibly fatal persecution. Or were there no Gypsies left alive when Kurt was born to raise him and thus, he was brought up by Genetics Researchers? Does that get me a No-Prize?

Also, though I know little about Captain Britain, I am given to understand that he was given powers by Merlin because he so embodied the best ideals of Britain and King Arthur. It stands to reason then, that Hauptmann Englede would never have received those powers in the first place, since being a hitman for Der Fuhrer is not the best example of "might makes right" that I can think of. Is Hauptmann Englede then a successful experiment in Aryan Supremacy, genetically engineered to be so strong, etc., (although he doesn't fly in #9)? Is that a second No-Prize?

I would, however, like to hear compliments on your story lines, your artwork, and most of all, on the one man that makes it all worth while—Kurt Wagner. The rest of the team, especially Kitty, are all wonderful, but Nightcrawler is not only a swashbuckling romantic with a genuine appreciation for any female in a skint, he's blue and has wonderful bone structure (he's being drawn with German features now!) Anyway, I react to a soft German accent the way Jamie Lee Curtis responded to Russian in "A Fish Called Wanda."

I'll tell you what . . . I'll trade my No-Prizes in, for this—if Kurt ever needs a vacation away from the English drizzle, I'll gladly keep him entertained in Florida. I've got an extra toothbrush and he's better than a No-Prize any day. *Ich liebe dich, Herr Wagner.*

Meghan Moroney  
(Address withheld by request)

You had some interesting ideas as to the origins of Nightcrawler and Hauptmann Englede, Meghan. The thing about alternate timelines is that they can make the improbable a reality. A good example of this is the Lightning Squad. Good examples of these types of alternate timelines can be found monthly in WHAT IF . . . , Marvel's tales of divergent history, where the course of some of our heroes' lives takes a slightly different turn—not always for the better!

As for those No-Prizes you requested—No-Prizes are given out when one of our readers catches us in a *faux pas*! They are then obliged to write to us and explain why it wasn't really an error. Keep that in mind the next time you think you've found something that will garner you a No-Prize, Meg!

You know, lately Kurt's been thinking about taking a vacation to warmer climes . . . we wonder?

Dear EXCALIBUR,

"The Two-edged Sword," EXCALIBUR #9, was absolutely spectacular. I'm hoping this current storyline will last a while.

The Lightning Squad was truly impressive. I especially like their Meggan's costume. Maybe you could use it as our Meggan's attire, minus the swastika and other Nazi emblems of course. Am I right in assuming that their Shadowcat is Jewish and that is why she has that star on her forehead? Was she forced to join the Lightning Squad? Please create an origin for them.

Captain Britain's training session was really done well. What is happening to him and Meggan? Could he be losing his powers? And how are Meggan's powers changing? I think it has to do with her insecurity. She's becoming more and more insecure and is letting people shape her in their own image, as she did when she was first born. Meggan will hopefully develop a stronger confidence in herself before it is too late.

What is Saturnyne's plan on Earth? I'm assuming that was her masquerading as Courtney Ross at the Hellfire Club. Was the real Courtney a member? Could be interesting if she was! Why is Saturnyne running around town making Nigel Frohisher look like a fool? I hope it's connected to the current storyline. If not, have this plot resolved soon. Don't procrastinate on this as you did on the Widget storyline.

Are Kitty, Lockheed, and Nightcrawler really dead? Lockheed is from all appearances, due to being strangled by the Lightning Squad's Shadowcat. Kitty probably isn't dead because the Squad's Shadowcat just touched her. Nightcrawler is in even worse shape. Just last issue he said one teleport a day was all he could handle. His counterpart teleported five times in about ten seconds. If Kurt isn't dead, he must be in another coma. Please don't kill any of these characters, especially Kitty, because I like them all and don't want them to be gone.

I have just a few more questions before I go. Are all the strange dimensional warps at all related to the Jaspers Warp? Is another reality warp on the way? Does the Nazi EXCALIBUR come from the world where Saturnyne was Majestrix until she was deposed by Captain U.K.? Is the Captain coming back? What ever happened to the RCX, Mastermind, the Warpies, and Cherubim? Are they still at Brian's mansion?

Please bring back the Technet. I love them and want to see more of them.

Here's my try for a No-Prize. In the letters page of EXCALIBUR #9, you said Captain Britain is not a mutant. But in the CAPTAIN BRITAIN TRADE PAPERBACK, page 106, Brian says "But I thought the power was in the suit!" Mastermind replies, "The suit is merely an amplifier. The power is intrinsic to you." Also in MARVEL AGE #74, the article on the T.P. says "Only recently did he [Brian] discover that he and Betsy were mutants." So Captain Britain is a mutant whose powers are strength and invulnerability.

Until #10 and Widget . . .

Patrick Hamilton  
9825 SW, Rodeo Pl.  
Beaverton, OR 97005

Very inquisitive aren't you, Pat? A lot of your questions have been answered by now, so let's see what we can do about the ones that might not have been.

The story isn't necessarily over regarding Lightning Squad. They'll be back when they're least expected. As soon as she can manage, Saturnyne's machinations will soon be coming to light.

I hope you're happy that the Technet have decided to make an appearance once again.

Although Brian got some answers as to the origins of his powers, a lot of it is still a mystery to him as well as us, but he'll be finding out a lot more in the near future. Count on it!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

I just finished reading EXCALIBUR #9 and I have one thing to say:

Lockheed better not be dead!!!

Doil Ward  
P.O. Box 323  
Ardmore, TN 38449

Don't worry Doil, our favorite dragon is quite well, alive, and . . . breathing!

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR is on my list as one of the 5 comic books that I read. The stories have been great so far and the art is even better. The cover of #9 is one of my favorites.

Issue #9 is also the first time I've seen Kitty with her glasses on. In issue #200 of the X-MEN she said she couldn't read the signs of the pro-mutant marchers because they were too far away. That means she's near-sighted like I am. But in EXCALIBUR #9 she was wearing her glasses while she was monitoring Captain Britain on the computer, but she didn't really need to wear them then. My explanation for this is that when I am working on something and feeling serious I wear my glasses because they help me get into that kind of mood. I think that's why she was wearing hers. So do I get a No-Prize or not? Please? I've been waiting forever for one. But even if I don't get one I'll still make mine Marvel.

Keep up the good work!

Chris Marzuola  
(Address withheld on request)

Your explanation was good Chris, but the subject doesn't garner a No-Prize.

No-Prizes are given out to fans who find an apparent mistake in one of our books, and come up with a plausible explanation as to why it wasn't an error after all.

Near-sighted people can wear their glasses all the time, not just for looking long distances.

Thanks for making Marvel yours anyway!